



WILLIAM McDONALD - FIRE CHIEF

# LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE ***FIRE NEWS***

For more information: PEIO TIMOTHY R. SZYMANSKI 702-303-2993

[www.lasvegasfire.org](http://www.lasvegasfire.org)

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## **Local Residents To Graduate From Citizens Fire Academy Tonight**

Twenty-two valley residents will graduate from the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Citizens Fire Academy tonight. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year, or 20<sup>th</sup> class, of the annual program.

The class started in February and met once each week for three hours. Topics included administration, emergency medical services, communications, fire safety and a variety of other fire related subjects. Participants also had the chance to do a ride along with a fire engine crew to see what responding to an emergency incident is like and to participate in a "hands-on" day at the fire training center where they wore actual firefighter gear while participating in a number of events including using the "Jaws of Life" on a simulated auto accident and going through the burn practice building.

The participants consisted mainly of citizens from a variety of areas including students, city employees, professional people and retired people.

The graduation will be held at the Charleston Heights Art Center located at 800 Brush Street tonight at 7 p.m.

The mission of the Citizens Fire Academy is to give citizens an opportunity to learn how fire and rescue services operate in the Las Vegas Valley and to learn life-saving techniques, fire safety and how to prepare for disasters. This is the 15th year Las Vegas Fire & Rescue has completed a Citizens Fire Academy. Since 2000, there have been 20 classes, with more than 500 people completing the 10-week course. At least 20 past participants have gone on to become firefighters or members of other emergency services organizations. The academy is a part of the U.S. Fire Corps program that was initiated by President George W. Bush in 2004 and is used as a model for other fire departments to start Citizens Fire Academies in their communities. The program has received recognition from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and *Firehouse Magazine*.

**WHAT: Citizens Fire Academy Graduation**

**WHEN: Today, May 12, 7 p.m.**

**WHERE: Charleston Heights Art Center**

**800 Brush Street**

**Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is an I.S.O. Class One agency and is an Accredited Agency by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The department responds to over 110,000 incidents annually.**

City Council: MAYOR CAROLYN G. GOODMAN – MAYOR PRO TEM STEVEN D. ROSS – LOIS TARKANIAN  
RICKI Y. BARLOW – STAVROS S. ANTHONY – BOB COFFIN – BOB BEERS  
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**Photo op: Presentation of certificates of completion to begin at 7:30 p.m. after dinner.**

**City of Las Vegas Fire Chief William McDonald will make the presentation to the participants.**

**END ## LVFR/PIO-TRS**

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